

Rhode Island State Planning Council
Approved Minutes of Thursday, October 11, 2012 Meeting
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

1. Members Present

Ms. Kelly Mahoney, Vice Chair	Policy Director, Office of the Governor
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Mr. Robert Azar	Providence Department of Planning & Development
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	RI LOCAT, President's Designee
Ms. Janet Coit	Director, RI Department of Environmental Management
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Dr. Michael Fine	Director, RI Department of Health
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI Department of Administration, Budget Office
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RI LOCAT, Government Official Representative
Mr. Bill Parsons	Acting Director, RI Economic Development Corporation
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Dan Beardsley, Executive Director, RI LOCAT
Mr. Sam Shamoon	Governor's Designee
Mr. Bob Shawver	Representing Mr. Michael Lewis Director, RIDOT
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

2. Members Absent

Mr. Stephen Cardi	Cardi Corporation
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Richard Licht	Director, RI Department of Administration
Mr. William Sequino	Public Member
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

3. Guests

Mr. Daniel Berman	Federal Highway Administration
Ms. Meredith Brady	RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Michael Hogan	RI House Policy Office
Mr. Michael Walker	RI Economic Development Corporation

4. Staff – Division of Planning

Ms. Linsey Callaghan
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, II
Ms. Karen Scott
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso

Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Assistant Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair, Ms. Mahoney announced that Mr. Licht had a meeting conflict. She then called the meeting to order on October 11, 2012 at 9:03 a.m.

2. Approval of the September 13, 2012 Meeting Minutes – *for vote*

Ms. Mahoney asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 13, 2012. Mr. Shamoon moved to approve the minutes of September 13, 2012 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jean Boyle. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were none.

4. Long Range Transportation Plan 2035 Update – *for action*

Ms. Callaghan provided an overview of the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to date as discussed in the agenda supplement and as presented in the amended document, which was distributed with the Council's meeting packets. In addition, Ms. Meredith Brady of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) spoke to the specific changes which were made by RIDOT staff within Part Three – Transportation Financing. Highlights of those items in which the State Planning Council engaged in discussion are as follows:

Mr. Schaefer asked why the controversial tolling of the Sakonnet River Bridge was not discussed within the financial section of the document. In response, Ms. Brady indicated that it was due to the fact that RIDOT and RIPTA will not receive the funds.

Mr. Berman asked if the Air Quality analysis included Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) as well as those in the LRTP. Ms. Callaghan said yes.

There being no further questions or comments, Ms. Mahoney asked for a motion to authorize the conducting of public hearings on the draft. Ms. Prager moved approval and Ms. White Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and there was no further discussion.

5. RI Department of Health Planning Initiatives – *for discussion*

Ms. Mahoney introduced Dr. Fine who delivered an informational presentation on the status of health planning within RI. The content presented by Dr. Fine is summarized in attachment 1. The following items were discussed amongst the Council and staff throughout Dr. Fine's presentation:

Ms. Coit requested further clarification as to why the use of corn is perceived as a health concern. Dr. Fine noted that it primarily relates to the amount of high fructose corn syrup that is used in this country and contributes to our high rates of diabetes and obesity.

Ms. Coit next asked for additional details on how approximately one billion dollars or one-third of RI's total health care costs are wasted. Dr. Fine responded by noting that much of that figure is based on over treatment.

Mr. Shawver questioned how many unintentional injuries are related to car accidents. Dr. Fine noted that it has been decreasing; however, overdose of prescription drugs is the leading killer within the unintentional preventive death category.

Ms. Coit asked why RI is fifty percent above the average in perinatal conditions. Dr. Fine speculated that it is related to adolescent pregnancy.

Ms. Boyle explained that she attended a seminar at Bryant College recently where they discussed how Rhode Island plans to take services from the hospitals and move them to different types of clinics within the communities. She asked Dr. Fine to elaborate on this initiative. In Response, Dr. Fine explained that evidence shows that the number of hospital bed nights is shrinking quickly and healthcare professionals are speculating that within the next ten years, the number of hospital bed nights will have decreased by fifty percent. Therefore, healthcare professionals are collaborating to form a community health center model, which will provide multi-disciplinary practices closer to homes. He then noted that a substantial portion of RI's economy is based on its hospital system; therefore, the challenge faced will be to secure healthcare employment in RI instead of seeing them exported to other states.

Mr. Berman asked if the Department of Health (DOH) is considering Health Impact Assessments (HIA) for communities. In response, Dr. Fine indicated that RI has not developed a robust system for HIA yet, but that the DOH is very interested in partnering with other agencies to do so.

Mr. Shamoon asked how the message will be delivered to the general public. Dr. Fine said that the DOH works with the Lieutenant Governor and other Government Officials to convey the message.

Mr. Murray noted that the Town of South Kingstown was the recipient of the Healthy Place by Design Grant and it was embraced well by the community. He said that the connections between community health and community planning energized the community in terms of walkability, bicycling, and access to healthy foods. Mr. Murray said that walkability and village planning also connected in terms of the Town's Economic Development. He also noted that the Town incorporated healthy places by design policies and

objectives throughout their comprehensive plan and then said it is a good model for other communities to follow.

Ms. Coit thanked Dr. Fine for his presentation and expressed her appreciation for his collaborative contributions with the Department of Environmental Management's recreational activities.

Mr. Schaefer asked how RI will reconcile the need to come to the aid of hospitals that are in distress. Dr. Fine said that State Government needs to proactively partner with cities and towns to ensure that the services they need are available. Ms. Prager asked how RI will regulate the diminishment of services. Dr. Fine indicated that it is a challenge as the Health Planning Council is looked to regulate expansion not retraction.

Ms. White-Raymond asked how these activities will be integrated into Statewide Planning's efforts to create an Economic Development Plan through the HUD Sustainable Communities grant. Dr. Fine stressed that the focus should be on primary care centers and robust information exchange centers that would better position RI for a future research focus as opposed to just focusing on something like bio technology.

Mr. Parsons pointed out that RI already has successful pharmaceutical manufacturing plants. Dr. Fine acknowledged their existence and the importance of them to RI's economy but also noted that the overarching goal should be to create a society that doesn't need such products through good planning.

There being no further questions, Ms. Mahoney thanked Dr. Fine for his presentation and moved on to the next agenda item.

6. Proposed 2013 Meeting Schedule – *for introduction*

Mr. Rhodes presented the proposed 2013 meeting schedule for informational purposes and asked the Council to review it prior to next month's meeting as it will be on the agenda for action. Mr. Rhodes noted that all the meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month with the exceptions of the February, March and November meetings, which fall on the 1st Thursday of the month. Additionally, the September meeting falls on the third Thursday, which accommodates the Jewish Holiday.

7. Associate Director's Report

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director's report:

- Statewide Planning Principal Research Technician vacancy;
- Pawtucket Assistant Planning Director vacancy;
- Water 2030 outreach efforts;
- RI Solid Waste Management Plan update;
- HUD Sustainable Communities initiative;
- RI College Forums – economic focus;
- RFP rollout associated with Economic Development Plan.

Ms. Prager referred to the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) and other Economic Development reports and asked who coordinates the efforts to put forward a proposal that integrates them. Ms. Mahoney said the Governor's office is in the process of reviewing all of these initiatives as well as on going activities to synthesize RI's Strategic Plan for moving forward. Next, Ms. Prager asked if there is comparable work simultaneously happening at the legislature. Ms. White-Raymond said the General Assembly's Joint Commission is also assessing the current reports and discussing how to proceed.

8. Other Business

There was none.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Trevor moved to adjourn. Mr. Parsons seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Flynn", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Flynn
Secretary

Attachment 1